

Rough draft probably 1969 before you 1/22/80 transcript made for me
Add Excess - Cs Agt

Script by George Russell

The Director of the Archives sought to content himself with the mere statement there was no transcript of any executive session of January 22, 1964. It is a proper bureaucratic concept, or at least the accepted one: he did not, in his own eyes, misrepresent; he merely didn't answer, didn't tell the truth. I have given him proof there had been such a session. There was no Commission from which the information could be elicited. He passed the buck to nothing.

When I asked him for the bills covering that date he did not respond. He simply ignored the request, and for an unconscionably long time, it even after I repeated it and called to his attention.

So, on next to the last day of the year I appeared at the Archives and asked for the files covering the court reporting services. They are two, not listed in either the so-called list of basic source materials, the gibberish that passes as a bibliography, and the files list, not much more meaningful. This I publish in POST MORTEM. One is headed, "Presidential Commission, Reporting Service", the other "Ward & Paul, Reporters".

It seems as though Senator Russell's recommendation carried weight. The firm of Ward and Paul, an experienced, competent one, got the job at the going rate. Jesse Ward, Jr., a well-known figure on Capitol Hill to my own knowledge for more than 30 years wrote the Chief Justice a letter setting forth standard terms and Hankin replied, accepting the offer. The other applicants were ignored, from the files.

To what might be regarded as standard conditions, Ward added the offer to deliver all the stenographic notes, and the recordings (they used distabelts) to the Commission, regularly, for destruction. Whether or not this was stipulated verbally, not in any communication to the reporters, the files do not reveal. Normally, the reporter is expected to keep his original notes and to be able to testify in any subsequent legal proceeding with them in his hand.

The files also disclose that Ward was as good as his word - sometimes better. Each days proceedings were delivered the following morning, each accompanied by a printed receipt form. Rankin stipulated the few people authorized to accept the transcript of testimony - and his staff counsel were not so trusted - and each such transcript is covered by a receipt. That dated January 22, 1964 is particularly interesting, not alone because it is the first. It is Receipt No. 3001. It reads, "received from WARD & PAUL (blank filled in with the word) nine copies of transcripts of proceedings before (blank filled in) the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy". The printed form continues, "in re" and there is another long blank to which was typed "TOP SECRET", then, again printed "held at Washington, D.C. on", with the date added, "January 21, 1964".

What is especially fascinating is this: according to the printed transcripts and everything else I can find, there were no "proceedings before the President's Commission" before February 3, when Marina Oswald was the carefully-selected first witness!

There was, however, an executive session that day. If the Commission got nine copies of the transcript, this provided but two for the files and any other purposes, once the seven members of the Commission each got one. Even this scant number turned out to be too many/for the penypinching Rankin, who on May 4 wrote Ward and Paul, "This is to inform you that as of this date on the depositions only the Commission will require a total of six copies rather than the ten" with which it had begun. What about that plaint of the members that each one stayed awake to the wee small hours after his regular busy day sedulously studying the words of the more than 500 "witnesses"? With one copy available for the witness' perusal, even with none for the staff there were still two ~~xxxxxx~~ members who could not have seen the transcripts. It is certain there were file and staff copies. It is also certain that the pious plaint of the members is a public-relations fraud, as other of the files make as ~~xxxxxxx~~ clear.

Well, aside from the other required form-filling on Receipt No. 3001 for the stenographic transcript, the name of the recipient, Julius T. Eide, the deliverer, Jesse R. Ward, Jr., himself, and the time, 8:55 a.m. (and a.m. is not specified), there remains a single significant addition. In the middle of the form, where there is an abundance of blank space, these words are typed:

"also, Reporter's notes, master sheets, carbon paper, waste."

There it is. Everything is turned over to the Commission for destruction, and not even a single staff counsel is entrusted with this responsibility. If there is a question about the testimony, there can be no answer. Even the dictabelts were shredded. And there were questions, some anticipated and eliminated by the reporter. For example, attached to the June 8 receipt for the 69 pages of the June 8 deposition of William Kirk Stuckey, the newspaper and radio reporter who had personal contact with Oswald in New Orleans, is this note, typed on half of a sheet of the specially-printed ditto paper used for the transcripts: Note to Lil- we will use photocopy)

④ "They spoke of Commission Exhibit (Stuckey) No. 4 ask having been marked for identification, but nowhere was this done. It was not clear where it was marked, if it was. So I made no mention of it, either, in the transcript or the index. Perhaps you will want to check it. Al Loda"

It is true an accommodating reporter who eliminates "questions" in advance.

Should there remain in the reader's mind, after my assurance that Ward contracted to deliver his reporters' notes, dictabelts, carbon paper and miscellaneous trash, every scrap of it, to the conscientious Rankin so the pennypincher could assure him self of the proper destruction of the original material, a rather unusual diligence when the subject-matter of the inquiry was the murder of an American President, I present this typed note: Lil- we'll use a photocopy

"2/7/64 - 10:30 a.m. Mr. Elmer Moore of Secret Service took all ~~the~~ as waste material delivered by Ward and Paul to date to be burned with other

matter at the White House under ~~the~~ supervision of White House Police. Julia Eide".

Does it sound like a palace plot? It was the norm, the regular functioning of this Commission. All the imperishable records perished by the flame, in the White House whose occupant took it over only because of the murder being "investigated".

Is there a question about the testimony? That has been resolved. Whatever the Commission wanted the record to show, that it shows, and there is none to gainsay it, not even a mute gray ask to oppose it.

But everybody does have to get paid, and there must be some kind of a record of the payment. With the contract providing for a page rate of compensation to Ward & Paul, every page for which they were paid had to be tabulated.

Their first bill to the Commission was for \$4,629.75. This covered the month of February, as well as the first item, "Jan. 21 & 27, Orig and 8 copies", a total of 208 pages at the Page Rate of \$2.50, or 520.00. These were executive sessions. From January 21 through February 27, all items were marked "DAILY Delivery save one. After the transcripts of "Feb. 4, 5 & 6", the dates of Marina's original testimony, there appears this notation "RUSH Delivery (A.M. Session of the 6th only)". Perhaps, some time in the future, our analysis will tell us what there was in Marina's testimony of that Thursday morning that excited this great end, for a penurious man like Rankin, costly extra service. On it, the page rate went up from the \$2.55 for the ten-copy sets of transcripts to \$3.05 - and Rankin is the man who refused to spend pennies for copies of the pictures of the President's murder. I doubt if it is the last thing she then said (IH103), that her late husband, the accused assassin never said "anything against the leaders of" the United States government.

Were it the afternoon session, then the reason would be obvious. Those numerous lies to which she glibly testified, known as lies to the Commission, pleased it no end. For example, of the rifle she had ~~xxx~~ already to, and the government she could not identify, she had the headline-grabbing formulation (IH119):

"This is the fateful rifle of Lee Oswald".

I could also have had interest in those few unwelcome things she blurted out, like her exclamation about the paper in which her husband had allegedly carried the rifle to work the morning of the assassination, "It wasn't brown before", ^(1H120) ~~ix~~ Thus she made public what had been hidden, that the FBI's "work" on that "evidence" had entirely changed its character. About the ammunition with which her husband allegedly shot the President, "I never saw any shells" (1H120) While she did lie (1H123) and utter those words so prized by the Commission, saying "In New Orleans "He told me when we were in New Orleans that he was a Communist", which he certainly had not, for he was virulently anti-Communist, she could not resist adding, "but I didn't believe him, because I said, 'What kind of Communist are you if you don't like the Communists in Russia?'"

~~ix~~ To her Lee, the Russians were "fat, stinking politicians", and the American Communists had "betrayed the working class", but she had testified he told her he was a Communist.

When we stop to wonder what might have been in the rather large number of pictures Skinflint Rankin could have bought with the \$107 extra he paid for that "RUSH Delivery" of her Tuesday morning testimony, each picture costing but pennies to print, we know only that he regarded it as significant. The question "why", temporarily, remains.

But there remains no question at all about the last item, or of the January 22 executive session of the Commission, for which at great cost all those Texas officials, busy and important in their own State, were so urgently flown to Washington a month after what they were asked about was in the papers but the very moment they showed signs of official cognizance, or making an official record of the possibility Lee Harvey Oswald had been some kind of agent of some federal intelligence service.

After all the other items in this bill, out of chronological order here it would have been the second item, there is this one for "Jan.22", the

change in page rate requiring a separate listing:

"No write-up (reporter's notes confiscated by Commission) pages estimated". Then, this session that began at the end of the working day - a little after the end of the normal one - was estimated to have taken 30 pages, much less than it undoubtedly did, for which Ward & Paul charged at the fantastically cheap rate of \$0.825 per non-existent page, giving the highly-paid reporter^{and} the company, between them, a mere \$24.75.

There are few court reporters willing, had this one gotten all \$24.75 of what was billed, to sit around beginning supper time for several hours, pay car fares and things like that, for what to them ~~is~~ is such a small sum. Ward & Paul had the office staffs standing by, with those who do the actual typing, those who do the duplicating, etc., ready to rush the whole bit through, for ~~this~~ this transcript didn't begin until well after the time of the day the usual ones ended, and it is no cinch to deliver a competent transcript first thing the following morning. Ward & Paul burt, but they hurt in silence.

Only this mute bill, of all the enormity of that vast literary quicksand of the estimated 300 cubic feet of the Commission's still-existing files, tells us what happened to the executive session of January 22, 1964, where the Texas officials dropped everything to tell what they knew or had heard of Oswald as a federal agent.

The words were never typed. The words that were recorded were shredded then burned - in the White House tenanted by the man who became its occupant by the murder ~~xxxxxx~~ thus "investigated" by those to whom he, personally, had assigned the task. It is a more than usually ghoulish facet of the MacBethian drama. Therefore, I hasten to add, not for the first time, that I do not believe him an assassin, do not believe he ordered the murder, was in any way connected with it - save as its beneficiary. Unfortunately, this did not overcome his political instincts. He did not recall the injunction for Caesar's wife and the cleanliness of her skirts, which is also applicable to the President of the United States, particularly when he takes office through the murder he is

and had heard, about what the federal government avoided when it was public, when it was in the press, about which all the investigations were framed in advance where they were not eliminated to begin with, about ~~OSWALD~~ Agent Oswald.

John Kennedy's favorite book of the Bible is mine, In Ecclesiastes it is written, "There is a time and a place for everything".

This was the time of "reporter's notes confiscated by Commission", the time of "No write-up", the time "Mr. Elmer Moore of Secret Service took all" the notes of the reporter, all his carbon paper, as the wasted pages, all the waste of various kinds " to be burned at the White House".

A time to be born and a time to die;

A time to sow and a time to reap that which has been sown.

A time to shred and a time to burn.

A time to frame.

A time to hide.

A time to make "acBeth of a hack

A time for a coup d'etat.

And a time to preserve the coup d'etat.

There is, indeed, a time and a place for everything.

January 21, 1964, was the time the succession of Lyndon Johnson was in jeopardy, the time when federal involvement, whether or not involuntary, in the murder of the President, became ~~xxxxixixix~~ a matter of official federal record, a record for history, a danger to the coup d'etat that began at 12:30 the afternoon of November 22, 1963, in Dealey Plaza, Dallas Texas, where the bright warming sun shined after a raining, dreary morning, with the popular young President murdered in the middle of a friendly wave at the unexpectedly large and warm crowd crowds in the heart of enemy territory.

It thus became the time for the shredding and burning of the evidence.

The American way is more subtle as it is more effective.

It burns evidence.

And it sees to it, quietly, efficiently, effectively, that the unburned books are unavailable. Which is better than burning.

But burning was not Rankin's only answer.

Our examination of the files on the reporting services is not complete.

If the files are - and today who can say - there remains perhaps a greater scandal. Elsewhere I discuss at some length the transcript of the executive session of September 16, 1964, the Commission's last, at which some of the disquieted members recorded their misgivings at the content of the Report that was then about to be published. They made a record for history for themselves - or at least so they thought. In those passages I detail what was said that no longer exists, show with photocopies of the once "TOP SECRET" executive sessions how it was all corrupted, how it was not, in fact, a transcript, certainly not a Ward & Paul transcript.

With the bills - and remember, everybody gets paid - in my hands, I sought one to cover, no matter how inadequately, no matter at how reduced and unprofitable a rate, the executive session of September 16, 1964, the historic one in which the members of the Commission disagreed with the conclusions prefabricated to bear their signatures and with them the weight of their eminence, the persuasiveness of their reputations.

There is none!

From my page by page, receipt by receipt, bill by bill examination of files "Presidential Commission 10" and "Ward & Paul Reporters", the last hearing was that of Marina Oswald, at the Dallas Air Station Sunday, September 6, 1964.

There, too, the members had had and expressed the deepest misgivings. Marina had changed her story (but the Report was not changed). However, there was the subsequent and last testimony of ^{John D} ~~Franklin~~ Gallagher, the FBI's spectrographic expert who was never asked a question about his still-suppressed spectrographic analysis

of the faked "ballistics evidence" of the assassination, that of the bullet and fragment fragments allegedly used but never proved to have been used in the murder. His September 15 testimony is published (15H756), but the bill for their taking of the deposition is ~~red~~ through. Appropriate, for can one imagine the integrity of an investigation that takes only incompetent testimony about the most basic evidence, from a witness who is careful as the FBI's firearms expert, Robert Frazier, was careful to do, as I brought to light in WHITWASH (p.), then asks no single question of the one competent witness, the man who did the work, made the study, and then doesn't even call him as a witness until after the entire massive Report has been not only written but set in type and ready for the press rolling.

So, we have no record of any official reporter making any ~~xxxxxxx~~ official record of the Commission's most important deliberations. There is no bill in the files.

There is nothing to say there was "no write-up", there were no notes to be "confiscated by Commission", no need for shredding and White House ~~burning~~ burning.

If there is an error in any of the bills or receipts, a crime has been committed. Every one is sworn to before a notary public. Mosto including the one above cited, by Ward & Paul's long-time manager, who I knew well 30 years ago. He is Wayne Birdsell. The March 10, 1964 bill, covering everything up to and including the end of February, was ~~xxxxxxx~~ sworn to before Anthony S. Pastnyck (right), Notary Public, D.C. March 11.

It is with the rewriting of history, with coups d'etats, with the framing of the dead Dreyfuses and of all the living and those yet unborn with them as it is with the skinning of cats. There is more than one way.

This Commission, this Renkin, this government, sinned its cats its own way.

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*If I have a file on the Commission, referring
services, place there. Otherwise put in
Ward + Paul file*